

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 145034

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

66604

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:S. FRY:PMF

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APPROVED BY S/S-O:S. FRY

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R 041754Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO COMIDEASTFOR

CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T STATE 145034

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASMDC INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY
MANAMA AMEMBASSY TEHRAN AMEMBASSY KUWAIT FROM AMEMBASSY
JIDDA 03 JUL 74 (031400Z JUL 74):

QUOTE S E C R E T JIDDA 3838

EXDIS

DEPT: PASSCOMIDEASTFOR; CINCUSNAVEUR; CNO AND DOD/ISA

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, BA

SUBJ: SAUDI SUPPORT FOR MIDDLE EAST FORCE

REF : (A) MANAMA 0470; (B) JIDDA 3706

1. SIGNS THAT GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN MAY BE PREPARED TO
CONTINUE MIDDLE EAST FORCE UNDER NEW ARRANGEMENTS IS
WELCOME NEWS. IN DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR
AKINS (REF B), PRINCE FAHD DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT CHANNEL
HE MIGHT USE TO SUPPORT US NAVY REMAINING IN BAHRAIN.

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 145034

2. IDEA OF VISIT BY SAQQAFIS A GOOD ONE, BUT HE WILL BE

OUT OF COUNTRY UNTIL JULY 6 OR 7 AT LEAST. MOHAMMED MAS'UD, DEPUTY IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY WHO ACCOMPANIED PRINCE FAHD TO THE US (AND IS FAR CLOSER TO HIM THAN IS SAQQAF), MIGHT BE A MORE USEFUL CONDUIT FOR JOGGING THE PRINCE AS TO THE NECESSITY OF MOVING ON THE SUBJECT. UNLESS THERE IS OBJECTION, USG GUEST THAT I TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF A JULY 4 CALL ON MAS'UD, ALREADY PROGRAMMED, TO MENTION SUBJECT IN THE LIGHT OF NEW EVIDENCE THAT THE GOB IS ONLY WAITING FOR SAUDI APPROVAL TO CANCEL OUT ITS EARLIER ACTION WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A CHANGE IN THE AGREEMENT. THIS NEW EVIDENCE OF GOB TENDENCY TO WANT TO CONTINUE TO HOST COMIDEASTFOR AS A FRIENDLY PRESENCE IN THE GULF IS PROBABLY OF VALUE IN GETTING FAHD TO MOVE NOW. PRESENTATION WILL BE GENERAL, NOT SPECIFIC AS TO INDIVIDUALS NAMED IN REFTEL (A). BIRD UNQUOTE SISCO

SECRET

NNN

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